

CANTON PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MINUTES

MONTHLY MEETING

SEPTEMBER 11, 2013

Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in a regular meeting on September 11, 2013

Present were; Mr. Andy Black- President, Mr. Wuyanbu Zutali – Vice President, Mr. Drew Pelger – Member, and Mr. Derek Gordon, Park Director/Secretary. There were other attendees at the meeting (See sign in sheet).

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 by Commissioner Black

Meeting minutes from the August 14, 2013 Regular Meeting were reviewed by the Commissioners.

Commissioner Black motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Zutali seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Park Levy Update – Commissioner Black informed the Commission that the fundraising event at the new Gervasi Crush House was very successful but that the overall campaign budget has been reduced from \$40,000 to \$20,000 due to the short time frame remaining to raise funds. Campaign literature will start to be distributed via mail in the first part of October. Three upcoming events at McKinley H.S., GlenOak H.S., and First Friday in downtown Canton will allow more exposure for the levy and Commissioner Black asked for the other Commissioner's support in attending these events. Commissioner Black also reminded everyone of the Spaghetti Dinner to be held on Friday, September 13th at the Garden Center.
2. 55th St Trailhead – Director Gordon anticipates that Council will approve the purchase of a small parcel of land on the northern border of the City that runs adjacent to 55th St NE and the Nimishillen Creek Trail to be developed into a trailhead. The funds to purchase the land will be provided by the Engineering Department and the development costs and ongoing maintenance will be covered by Gervasi Vineyards. Canton Parks will be asked to take over management responsibilities for the parcel on behalf of the City and will need to provide labor, manpower, and some materials to complete the expansion of the parking lot on the property. No action is required at this time, but a formal request for approval will be forthcoming at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Boy Scouts of America Event Request – Mr. Doug Crawford, the District Chairman of the local Boy Scout Council has requested the use of Stadium Park on May 10, 2014 to bring awareness to the community about the skills learned from being a Scout. The event will be held from 9:00am until 4:00pm and he will pursue all necessary permits to conduct the Boy Scout skills and survival demonstrations. President Black motioned to approve the request pending all City Safety requirements satisfied and that he continued to coordinate arrangements with the Park Office. Commissioner Zutali seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Mother Gooseland Master Plan Approval – Director Gordon presented a copy of the formal master plan for the Mother Gooseland property. While the entire parcel has not been formally transferred back to the park, Director Gordon requested the Commissioners approval for the plan as stages of construction for a dog park are imminent on the portion that is owned by the City. Director Gordon stated that corporate donations and partnerships with Arts in Stark and Stark Parks has made these improvements possible with minimal City funds.
3. Riverside Park – Project Rebuild / NFL Grant – Director Gordon has received verbal confirmation from Project Rebuild that the grant request has been successful to build a concession stand/storage facility at Riverside Park. Project Rebuild has not received written approval, but they will provide it when it is received so it can be submitted to the Park Commission for formal acceptance. Further details will follow regarding construction details and timelines as the National Football League, Pro Football Hall of Fame, and the Cleveland Browns organization will all be a part of the groundbreaking ceremony. Director Gordon stated that he hopes to continue to work with these grant partners for continued development of Riverside as a youth football complex.
4. Security Camera Update – Director Gordon notified the Commission that all but one of the security cameras and timed door locks should be installed by the next Commission meeting. There is an electrical issue at one of the locations, but he will provide a full update at the next meeting about the final installation details.
5. Garden Center Rental Policy Review – Director Gordon presented a revision of the Garden Center Rental Policy and Permit to the Park Commission. The adjustments include a longer maximum duration of renting the building (from 6 to 8 hours) and the option to have a park employee on duty during the rental. The second adjustment is adding two additional permit options for outdoor rentals and full grounds rentals at the respectively listed rates (see attachment). Director Gordon explained that the Garden Center and Park Office receive dozens of calls each year to reserve outdoor space in the garden and fountain areas for picture opportunities and weddings. The Commissioners elected to review this matter and consider approval at the next meeting.
6. Acceptance of Fairhope Nature Preserve – Director Gordon presented a letter of request from Service Director Bill Bartos requesting that the Park Commission take over management control of the Fairhope Nature Preserve. Commissioner Black mentioned that this request had been expected for several years as this transfer was discussed upon the initial acquisition and development of the Preserve by the Canton Engineering Department. Commissioner Black motioned to approve the request. Commissioner Zutali seconded. Roll call vote: Commissioner Pelger –Yes, Commissioner Zutali – Yes, Commissioner Black – Yes. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Community Center Incorporation Discussion – Director Gordon requested feedback on an outline describing the potential incorporation of the Edward “Peel” Coleman Center as a park facility and a professional services agreement with the J. Babe Stearn Center and Canton Joint Recreation District to provide recreational services pending the passage of the November levy. Director Gordon stated that no formal action can be taken by the Commission until the levy has passed, but he needs their opinion so he can proceed with negotiations with each entity and ask the Law Department to begin drafting the appropriate agreements and/or legislation. All of the

Commissioners had reviewed the outline, were in agreement with the concept, and advised Director Gordon to proceed with negotiations.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Directors Report (See Attachment)
2. Gypsy Moth Spraying at Nimisilla Park – Director Gordon asked for the Park Commission’s approval for the Ohio Department of Agriculture to spray Nimisilla Park for Gypsy Moths pending permit approval. The City’s Arborist, Dick Drake, has applied for the permit as advised by the City of Canton Tree Commission. This spraying has been conducted in the past at Nimisilla and a few other park areas with no noticeable negative impact to the surrounding neighborhoods. Commissioner Black motioned to approve the spraying pending permit approval and proper notification to the surrounding neighborhoods. Member Zutali seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Martindale Park Playground – Director Gordon was notified by the Recreation Director Nadine Sawaya that the Recreation District will be funding the construction of a playground at Martindale Park. Director Gordon requested the Park Commissioner’s approval of this new construction. The Commissioners questioned why the Recreation District chose this location. Director Gordon stated that Martindale Park has experienced a significant increase in usage since the opening of the Nimishillen Creek Trail which has multiplied the number of shelter rentals and justified the need for a playground. Commissioner Black motioned to approve the playground installation. Commissioner Zutali seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Commissioner Black – Yes, Commissioner Pelger – Yes, Commissioner Zutali – No. Commissioner Zutali stated that he supports the installation of the playground in this location, but he voted no as he wants to assure that Canton Parks is involved in the future planning and selection process of proposed Canton Joint Recreation District improvements to Park properties. He also requested that Canton Parks and the Canton Joint Recreation District work together annually to coordinate their capital budgets in the future.
4. Donation/Volunteer Recognition—
 - a. Coon Restoration – Director Gordon reported that Steve Coon has generously donated his company’s labor and equipment to rebuild the fallen shelter at Nimisilla Park which was a casualty of this past summer’s wind storm.

President Black motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Zutali seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.

Next Park Commission Meeting to be held at 4:00pm on Wednesday, October 8, 2013 at the Canton Garden Center.

Andy Black, President

Derek Gordon, Director